

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 11, 20 and 27, and add new claim 28, as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A collapsible rolling stand for use with an elongated normally horizontally oriented object attached thereto, said stand being supported by a ground surface and having a front end portion and a rear end portion, and being capable of being manipulated between open and closed positions, wherein the object is generally vertically oriented when the stand is closed ~~and in a generally vertical orientation~~, and wherein the object is generally horizontally oriented when the stand is in its open position, said stand comprising:

a top frame having a generally planar portion being configured to have the object secured thereto, said top frame planar portion being oriented in a generally horizontal position when said stand is in its open position and a ~~being generally vertical position~~ when said stand is moved to in its closed ~~and generally vertical position~~;

a folding mechanism supporting said top frame, including ~~a~~-at least one handle operatively connected to one end portion of a pair of spaced apart elongated first members that have opposite ~~ends~~-end portions that include defining contact points that contact with the ground surface and a pair of spaced apart second members each having wheels for enabling a user to roll said stand on the ground surface, said first and second members being pivotally connected to one another and configured so that the weight of the object provides a substantial portion of the necessary force needed to pivot said first and second pairs of members to further separate said forward contact point from said rear wheels and move said stand from said closed position to said open position wherein said top frame planar portion is substantially horizontal.

2. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 1 wherein said folding mechanism further comprises:

said first members are located on each side of said stand and are operatively connected to and pivotable relative to a rear portion of said top frame planar portion;

each of said second members having a pivot connection to one of said first members at a point intermediate the ends of said first member, each second member having one of said wheels connected to a rearward end portion thereof and an extension located forwardly of said pivot connection at a predetermined angle relative to the lengthwise direction of said second member;

a link member pivotally attached to the distal end of said extension and to said top frame planar portion;

a handle connected to one of said top frame planar portion or said first members;

a locking mechanism for releasably holding said stand in at least the closed position;

wherein when said stand is in its closed position, actuating said locking mechanism enables said second member to pivot about said pivot connection causing the weight of the object to move said wheels a short distance away from said top frame planar portion, further movement of said stand in the rearward direction causing said second members and wheel to rotate toward the rear of said stand to the open position where the top frame planar portion is oriented in said substantially horizontal position.

3. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 2 wherein said handle comprises a cross member that extends between and is connected to both of said first members.

4. (Original) stand as defined in claim 3 wherein said cross member is positioned at an elevation below said top frame planar portion and has curved shape upwardly from each of said first members.

5. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 4 wherein said first members have a generally transverse downward extension beyond said pivot connection to said top frame member, with said handle being connected to the ends of each downward extension.

6. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 4 wherein said first members and said handle are an integrally formed unitary structure.

7. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 2 wherein said predetermined angle is within the range of about 40 to about 90 degrees.

8. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 2 wherein said locking mechanism comprises a sliding pin having an operating knob operatively attached to one of said first and second members that is configured to operatively engage the other of said first and second members when said stand is in at least its closed position .

9. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 8 wherein said sliding pin is biased toward engagement.

10. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 2 wherein said first members have a generally transverse extensions at said ground engaging opposite ends and at least one front end bridge interconnecting said opposite ends.

11. (Currently amended) ~~A stand as defined in claim 10~~ A collapsible rolling stand for use with an elongated normally horizontally oriented heavy object attached thereto, said stand being supported by a ground surface and having a front end portion and a rear end portion, and being capable of being manipulated between open and closed positions, wherein the object is generally vertically oriented when the stand is closed, and wherein the object is generally horizontally oriented when the stand is in its open position, said stand comprising:

a top frame having a generally planar portion being configured to have the object secured thereto, said top frame planar portion being oriented in a generally horizontal position when said stand is in its open position and a generally vertical position when said stand is moved to its closed position;

a folding mechanism supporting said top frame, including at least one handle operatively connected to one end portion of a pair of spaced apart elongated first members that have opposite end portions that include points that contact the ground surface and a pair of spaced apart second members each having wheels for enabling a user to roll said stand on the ground surface, said first and second members being pivotally connected to one another and configured so that the weight of the object

provides a substantial portion of the necessary force needed to pivot said first and second pairs of members to further separate said forward contact point from said rear wheels and move said stand from said closed position to said open position wherein said top frame planar portion is substantially horizontal;

said folding mechanism further comprises:

said first members are located on each side of said stand and are operatively connected to and pivotable relative to a rear portion of said top frame planar portion:

each of said second members having a pivot connection to one of said first members at a point intermediate the ends of said first member, each second member having one of said wheels connected to a rearward end portion thereof and an extension located forwardly of said pivot connection at a predetermined angle relative to the lengthwise direction of said second member;

a link member pivotally attached to the distal end of said extension and to said top frame planar portion;

at least one handle connected to one of said top frame planar portion or said first members;

a locking mechanism for releasably holding said stand in at least the closed position;

said first members have a generally transverse extensions at said ground engaging opposite ends and at least one front end bridge interconnecting said opposite ends;

wherein a cross brace interconnects said first members adjacent the junction of said first members and said transverse extensions, said transverse extensions, front end bridge and cross bridge defining a carrying shelf;

wherein when said stand is in its closed position, actuating said locking mechanism enables said second member to pivot about said pivot connection causing the weight of the object to move said wheels a short distance away from said top frame planar portion, further movement of said stand in the rearward direction causing said

second members and wheel to rotate toward the rear of said stand to the open position where the top frame planar portion is oriented in said substantially horizontal position..

12. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 11 further including a sheet of support material substantially covering said shelf and a portion of said first members adjacent said transverse extensions.

13. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 1 wherein the object is a portable circular saw.

14. (Previously presented) A stand as defined in claim 1 further comprising a spring for biasing said stand toward its closed position when in its open position, such that an operator is not required to exert more than a small force to move said stand to its closed position.

15. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 14 wherein said small force is a small fraction of the weight of the object.

16. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 14 wherein said spring is substantially unloaded when the stand is in its closed position.

17. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 14 wherein said spring is a tension spring having one end connected to said second member and its other end connected to said first member, said spring being loaded into tension as said stand moves toward its open position.

18. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 1 wherein said top frame planar portion comprises two side frame members and two end frame members interconnected in a generally planar rectangular configuration.

19. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 2 further comprising at least one stop member attached to each second member for contacting said first member limiting the pivoting movement there between during opening of said stand so that said top planar portion is held in said generally horizontal position.

20. (Currently amended) A collapsible rolling stand for an elongated normally horizontally oriented heavy object attached thereto, said stand being

supported by a ground surface and having a front end portion and a rear end portion, and being capable of being manipulated between open and closed positions, wherein the object is generally vertically oriented when the stand is closed and in a generally vertical orientation, and wherein the object is generally horizontally oriented when the stand is in its open position, said stand comprising:

a top frame portion generally defining a plane and being configured to have the object secured thereto, said top frame portion being oriented in a generally horizontal position when said stand is in its open position and a generally vertical position when said stand is moved to its closed position;

a main side strut on each side of said stand pivotally connected to a rear portion of said top frame portion, and said side strut extending toward the ground surface and having to a ground engaging front contact point;

a rear leg having a pivotal connection for connecting to each said side strut at a point intermediate the ends of said main side strut, each rear leg having a wheel connected to a distal end portion of said rear leg and an extension located forwardly of said pivotal connection at a predetermined angle relative to the lengthwise direction of said rear leg;

a link member pivotally attached to the distal end of said rear leg extension and to said frame portion;

at least one handle connected to one of said top frame portion or said main side struts;

a locking mechanism for releasably holding said stand in at least the closed position;

wherein when said stand is in its closed position, actuating said locking mechanism enables said rear leg to pivot about said pivotal connection causing the weight of the object to move said wheel a short distance away from said top frame portion, further movement of said stand in the rearward direction causing said rear leg

and wheel to rotate toward the rear of said stand to the open position where the object is oriented in a horizontal position.

21. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 1 wherein said top frame includes an outwardly directed transverse extension at the front end thereof, said extension having a slot on each side thereof for receiving an end of a link member of said folding mechanism, said folding mechanism further comprising:

said first members are located on each side of said stand and are operatively connected to and pivotable relative to a rear portion of said top frame portion;

each of said second members having a pivot connection to one of said first members at a point intermediate the ends of said first member, each second member having one of said wheels connected to a lower end portion thereof, an upper end thereof extending upwardly beyond said pivot connection;

a link member having one end pivotally attached to said upper end of said second member and an opposite end pivotally connected to and slidable in said top frame extension slot;

an over center stop member attached to one of each link member and second member that are connected together for limiting the pivoting movement therebetween during opening of said stand so that said top planar portion is held in said generally horizontal position;

a handle connected to one of said top frame planar portion or said first members;

a locking mechanism for releasably holding said stand in at least the closed position;

wherein when said stand is in its closed position, actuating said locking mechanism enables said second member to pivot about said pivot connection causing the weight of the object to move said wheels a short distance away from said top frame portion, further movement of said stand in the rearward direction causing said second members and wheel to rotate toward the rear of said stand and said opposite end of said

link member to slide outwardly in said slot as said stand moves to its open position where the top frame portion is oriented in said substantially horizontal position.

22. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 1 wherein said folding mechanism further comprises:

said first members are located on each side of said stand and are operatively connected to and pivotable and slidable between two positions relative to a rear portion of said top frame planar portion;

a locking mechanism for at least one first member for releasably holding said first member from slidably moving relative to said rear portion of said top frame planar portion;

each of said second members having a pivot connection to one of said first members at a point intermediate the ends of said first member, each second member having one of said wheels connected to a lower end portion thereof and an upper end portion extending upwardly of said pivot connection;

a link member having one end pivotally attached to said upper end portion of each said second member and an opposite end pivotally attached to said top frame planar portion;

an over center stop member attached to one of each link member and second member that are connected together for limiting the pivoting movement therebetween during opening of said stand so that said top planar portion is held in said generally horizontal position;

a handle connected to one of said top frame planar portion or said first members;

wherein when said stand is in its closed position, actuating said locking mechanism enables said second member to pivot about said pivot connection causing the weight of the object to move said wheels a short distance away from said top frame planar portion, further movement of said stand in the rearward direction causing said

second members and wheel to rotate toward the rear of said stand to the open position where the top frame planar portion is oriented in said substantially horizontal position.

23. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 22 wherein said first and second positions are the closed and open positions of said stand.

24. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 1 wherein said top frame includes an outwardly directed transverse extension at the front end thereof, said extension having a slot on each side thereof for receiving an end of a link member of said folding mechanism, said folding mechanism further comprising:

said first members are located on each side of said stand and are operatively connected to and pivotable relative to a rear portion of said top frame portion;

each of said second members having a pivot connection to one of said first members at a point intermediate the ends of said first member, each second member having one of said wheels connected to a lower end portion thereof, an upper end thereof extending upwardly beyond said pivot connection;

a pair of first link members, each having a first end pivotally attached to said upper end of said second member and a second end pivotally connected to a first end of a second link member;

a pair of second link members, each having a first end pivotally connected to said second end of said first link member and to the first end of a third link member and a second end pivotally connected to and slidable in said top frame extension slot;

a pair of third link members, each having a first end pivotally connected to said first end of said second link member and pivotally connected to said second end of said first link member, said third link member having a second end pivotally connected to said ground contact end of said first member;

a handle connected to one of said top frame planar portion or said first members;

a locking mechanism for releasably holding said stand in at least the closed position;

wherein when said stand is in its closed position, actuating said locking mechanism enables said second members to pivot about said pivot connection causing the weight of the object to move said second members and wheels away from said top frame, said pivoting movement of second members in the rearward direction causing said upper end of said second members to move said first link members forwardly and move the first end of said second and third link members forwardly while simultaneously moving said second end of said second link members downwardly in said slots as said stand moves to its open position where the top frame planar portion is oriented in said substantially horizontal position.

25. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 1 wherein said folding mechanism further comprises:

said first members are located on each side of said stand and are operatively connected to and pivotable relative to a rear portion of said top frame portion;

each of said second members having a pivot connection to one of said first members at a point intermediate the ends of said first member, each second member having one of said wheels connected to a lower end portion thereof, an upper end thereof extending upwardly beyond said pivot connection;

a pair of first link members, each having a first end pivotally connected to and slidable relative to said upper end of said second member and a second end pivotally connected to first end portion of a second link member;

a pair of second link members, each having a first end pivotally connected to said second end of said first link member and to the first end of a third link member and a second end pivotally connected to said top frame;

a pair of third link members, each having a first end pivotally connected to said first end of said second link member and pivotally connected to said second end of said first link member and to said second end of said first link member, said third link member having a second end pivotally connected to said ground contact end of said first member;

a handle connected to one of said top frame planar portion or said first members;

a locking mechanism for releasably holding said stand in at least the closed position;

wherein when said stand is in its closed position, actuating said locking mechanism enables said second members to pivot about said pivot connection causing the weight of the object to move said second members and wheels away from said top frame, said pivoting movement of said second member in the rearward direction causing said upper end of said second members to move said first link members forwardly and move the first end of said second and third link members forwardly while simultaneously sliding said upper end of said second members rearwardly along said first link member as said stand moves to its open position where the top frame planar portion is oriented in said substantially horizontal position.

26. (Original) A stand as defined in claim 1 wherein said top frame has a pair of horizontal slots located on opposite sides of the front thereof, said folding mechanism further comprises:

said first members are located on each side of said stand and are operatively connected to and pivotable relative to a rear portion of said top frame planar portion, said first members having an enlarged portion at an intermediate point along their length;

each of said second members having a pivot connection to one of said first members at or near said enlarged portion of said first member, each second member having one of said wheels connected to a rearward end portion thereof and a first toothed gear fixed thereto, said first gear having a center opening through which a first pivot pin is attached to said first member, thereby enabling said second member and first toothed gear to pivot around said pivot pin;

a pair of link members, each having a first end pivotally attached to a second pin secured to said first member at or near said enlarged portion and a second end pivotally attached to said top frame, each link member having a second toothed gear

fixed thereto, said second gear having a center opening through which a second pivot pin is attached to said first member, thereby enabling said second member and second gear to pivot around said second pivot pin, each of said link members having a second end pivotally connected to said top frame slot;

said teeth of first and second gears engaging each other;

a handle connected to one of said top frame planar portion or said first members;

a locking mechanism for releasably holding said stand in at least the closed position;

wherein when said stand is in its closed position, actuating said locking mechanism enables said second member to pivot about said pivot connection causing the weight of the object to move said wheels away from said top frame planar portion, the movement of said stand in the rearward direction causing said second members and wheels to rotate toward the rear of said stand toward the open position, said engaged gears causing said link members to rotate in a direction opposite the rotation of said second member to the open position where the top frame planar portion is oriented in said substantially horizontal position.

27. (Currently amended) ~~A stand as defined in claim 1 wherein A~~
collapsible rolling stand for use with an elongated normally horizontally oriented heavy object attached thereto, said stand being supported by a ground surface and having a front end portion and a rear end portion, and being capable of being manipulated between open and closed positions, wherein the object is generally vertically oriented when the stand is closed, and wherein the object is generally horizontally oriented when the stand is in its open position, said stand comprising:

a top frame portion being configured to have the object secured thereto, said top frame portion being oriented in a generally horizontal position when said stand is in its open position and a generally vertical position when said stand is moved to its closed position;

a folding mechanism supporting said top frame portion, including at least one handle operatively connected to one end portion of a pair of spaced apart elongated first members that have opposite end portions that include points that contact the ground surface and a pair of spaced apart second members each having wheels for enabling a user to roll said stand on the ground surface, said first and second members being pivotally connected to one another and configured so that the weight of the object provides a substantial portion of the necessary force needed to pivot said first and second pairs of members to further separate said forward contact point from said rear wheels and move said stand from said closed position to said open position wherein said top frame portion is substantially horizontal, said first and second members are-being configured so that the weight of the object provides a substantial portion of the necessary force needed to pivot said first and second pairs of members to move said stand from said open position to said closed position wherein said top frame planar portion is in a generally vertical orientation.

28. (New) A collapsible rolling stand for use with an elongated normally horizontally oriented object attached thereto, said stand being supported by a ground surface and having a front end portion and a rear end portion, and being capable of being manipulated between open and closed positions, wherein the object is generally vertically oriented when the stand is moved to its closed position, and wherein the object is generally horizontally oriented when the stand is in its open position, said stand comprising:

a folding mechanism supporting the object, including at least one handle operatively connected to one end portion of a pair of spaced apart first members that have opposite end portions that include points that contact the ground surface ends and a pair of spaced apart second members each having wheels for enabling a user to roll said stand on the ground surface, said first and second members being pivotally connected to one another and configured so that the weight of the object provides a substantial portion of the necessary force needed to pivot said first and second pairs of members to further

separate said forward contact point from said rear wheels and move said stand from said closed position to said open position wherein the object is substantially horizontal.